

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	57320	Agenda Number	10.
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Meeting Date:	5/19/2016	Department:	Economic Development
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Subject

Approve the recommendation of the Arts Commission to deaccession the public artwork titled "Unity: Tree of Life" by Barbara Jackson-Poe at the Dove Springs Recreation Center.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding of the costs associated with deaccessioning is available in the FY2015-16 Operating Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Kevin Johns, Director, Economic Development Department / (512) 974-7802; Susan Lambe, Acting Art in Public Places Administrator, (512) 974-7852
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	April 18, 2016 - Recommended by the Arts Commission on a vote of 10-0 with one vacancy.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The Art in Public Places Program's Acquisitions and Deaccessioning Policy, adopted by the Arts Commission on December 15, 2008, recommends best practices for regular assessments of the public art collection, and establishes criteria, policies and procedures regarding removing an artwork from the collection, or deaccessioning.

The Arts Commission received a request for artwork deaccession at their regular monthly meeting on March 21, 2016, and found that the criteria in the policy had been met to initiate the deaccession process for *Unity: Tree of Life* by Barbara Jackson-Poe, 1998, at the Dove Springs Recreation Center.

Per policy, the Arts Commission and the Art in Public Places Panel appointed a jury of qualified members to assess the question of deaccessioning and make a recommendation back to the Arts Commission (jury membership listed below). The deaccession jury met on April 13, 2016.

Commissioned in 1998, *Unity: Tree of Life* was funded by 1% of the estimated construction budget from the Dove Springs Recreation Center, and resulting in a \$7,500 budget for the artwork. The artwork, by Barbara Jackson-Poe, is

a mural painted on drywall (two walls) located in the Center's TV room. The request to deaccession *Unity Tree of Life* was presented by the Parks and Recreation Department, based on plans to renovate the Center. The current designs include removing one wall where the artwork is located and installing a window on the other wall where the artwork is located. In addition, upon staff inspection, the artwork was found to be in poor condition with significant dirt built up and graffiti, paint chipping, and water damage. At the deaccession meeting, a community member spoke in favor of the deaccession, and requested to explore options for reuse of the mural, if legally permitted. The jury recommended unanimously that *Unity Tree of Life* be deaccessioned.

The Arts Commission voted unanimously at their April 18, 2016 meeting to approve the deaccession of *Unity Tree of Life*. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department has stated their support of the deaccession. To finalize the deaccession of *Unity Tree of Life* in accordance with program policy, City Council must now vote on the item.

If City Council votes to accept the recommendation of the Arts Commission to deaccession *Unity Tree of Life*, it will no longer be considered an artwork within the public art collection. It will be removed during construction at the Recreation Center and may be donated to the Dove Springs Recreation Advisory Board, per the artist's approval and City surplus regulations.

MEMBERS OF DEACCESSION JURY

Mark Van Gelder, appointed by the Art in Public Places Panel

Carrie Kenny, appointed by the Arts Commission

Emily Little, Art in Public Places Panel member

Dharmesh Patel, Art in Public Places Panel member

Ilse Frank, Art in Public Places Panel member

Brett Barnes, Arts Commissioner and liaison to the Art in Public Places Panel